



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

October 24, 2005

News Release

AMHERST RESIDENT SENTENCED FOR POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

SPRINGFIELD, MA—An Amherst man was sentenced Friday Oct. 21, 2005, in federal court for possessing child pornography.

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan; Matthew J. Etre, acting special agent-in-charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in New England; and Colonel Thomas G. Robbins, Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police, announced that Robert F. Sokolowski, 32, of 10 Belchertown Road, Amherst, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Michael A. Ponsor to 3 years and 10 months' imprisonment, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. On June 24, 2005, Sokolowski pleaded guilty to possessing child pornography.

At the earlier plea hearing, the prosecutor told the court that, had the case proceeded to trial, the evidence would have proven that Sokolowski possessed child pornography that had been transported through interstate commerce, including by computer.

The case was investigated by ICE, the Mass. State Police unit assigned to the Northwest District Attorney's Office and the Amherst Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ariane D. Vuono in Sullivan's Springfield office.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.